

In the Claims:

1 – 11 (Canceled)

12. (Amended – In independent form) A facsimile communication system, comprising a fax-to-email network including at least a sender-side at which an image on paper is received by said network and a receiver side from which an email message is accessible to an email user, and a bifurcated interface at the sender-side ~~The facsimile communication system of claim 11~~, and said sender-side including a fax function selectively generating a facsimile from an image on paper, and said bifurcated interface including a host portion and a traveler portion selectively communicating with said host portion, said host portion being connected to said fax function and said traveler portion being portable.
13. (Original) The facsimile communication system of Claim 12, and said traveler portion being a specially programmed personal data assistant.
14. (Original) The facsimile communication system of Claim 13, and said personal data assistant being programmed as a data entry tool having command communicating ability and a first communication protocol, and said host portion being programmed with a communication protocol compatible with said first communication protocol.
15. (Original) The facsimile communication system of Claim 13, and said traveler portion being programmed to receive input of an email address and to communicate to said host portion, via infrared linking, said address together with commands instructing said host portion to enter a selected fax delivery mode.
16. (Amended) A facsimile communication method, comprising the steps of ~~the transmitting~~ an image, which begins as a hardcopy, from a fax enabled device to a destination address entered at a personal data assistant, which personal data assistant is separate from the fax enabled device.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, and including the steps of:
receiving at a personal data assistant a destination address;
conveying via a first protocol the received address from the personal data assistant to a host interface portion together with commands instructing the host interface portion to initiate a facsimile delivery;
establishing a communication session between the host interface portion and a forwarding facility;
conveying during the first communication session via a second protocol the received address from the host interface portion to the forwarding facility;
conveying during the first communication session via a facsimile protocol an image from a fax function associated with the host interface portion to the forwarding facility;
and
delivering the image as an electronic file from the forwarding facility to the destination address received at the personal data assistant.
18. (Original) The method of claim 16, and the transmitting step including at least the step of delivering, to an email address entered at a personal data assistant, an email message containing a faxed document as an attachment and containing custom text entered at the personal data assistant.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 16, and the transmitting step including at least the transmission of a document, which begins as a hardcopy, from a fax enabled device to a forwarding facility via facsimile protocol and the delivery of the document as an electronic file to an email address entered at a personal data assistant.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 16, and further including the step of transmitting custom text and an email address, each entered at a personal data assistant, to a server across a first communication network and during a single communication session on that first network, and the creation at the server of an email message containing the custom text, and transmission of the email message from the server to the email address;
21. (Original) The method of Claim 16, and further including the steps of entering into a personal data assistant, at any time or place, destination addresses selected from the group consisting of email addresses and telephone numbers; placing related hard copy documents into the scanner of a fax function; communicating the destination addresses from the personal data assistant to a host interface portion; communicating the image data from the fax function to the address entered into the personal data assistant.
22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, and, if the destination address entered at the personal data assistant is an address on a first communication network, initiating a connection to the first communication network by the host interface portion dialing the phone dialing the destination address entered at the personal data assistant to open a communication line, and releasing the communication line for direct connection to the fax function.
23. (Original) The method of Claim 21, and, if the destination address entered at the personal data assistant is an address on a computer network, initiating a connection to a forwarding facility by the host interface portion dialing a pre-established address for accessing a server, to open a communication line between the host interface portion and the forwarding facility, and releasing the communication line for direct connection between the forwarding facility and the fax function.

24. (New) A facsimile communication method, including the steps of:
receiving at a personal data assistant a destination address;
conveying via a first data exchange the received address from the personal data assistant
to a host interface portion together with commands instructing the host interface
portion to initiate a facsimile delivery;
establishing, through the dialing of a destination address different from the destination
address received during the receiving step, a communication session between the
host interface portion and a forwarding facility;
conveying the received address from the host interface portion to the forwarding facility,
during the first communication session via a second data exchange independent of
the first data exchange;
conveying an image from a fax function associated with the host interface portion to the
forwarding facility, during the first communication session via a third data
exchange independent of the first and the second data exchanges; and
delivering the image as an electronic file from the forwarding facility to the destination
address received at the personal data assistant.
25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the first data exchange involves at least a first
protocol, and the second data exchange involves at least a second protocol different from
the first protocol, and the third data exchange involves at least a third protocol different
from each of the first and second protocols.
26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the third protocol is a facsimile protocol.

27. (New) A facsimile communication method, including the steps of:
receiving at a personal data assistant an alphanumeric email address, being the address of
a mailbox on a computer network;
conveying via a first data exchange the received address from the personal data assistant
to a host interface portion together with commands instructing the host interface
portion to initiate a facsimile delivery;
establishing a communication session between the host interface portion and a forwarding
facility;
conveying the received address from the host interface portion to the forwarding facility,
during the first communication session via a second data exchange independent of
the first data exchange;
conveying an image from the fax function associated with the host interface portion to the
forwarding facility, during the first communication session via a third data
exchange independent of the first and the second data exchanges; and
delivering the image as an electronic file from the forwarding facility to the destination
address received at the personal data assistant.
28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the first data exchange involves at least a first
protocol, and the second data exchange involves at least a second protocol different from
the first protocol, and the third data exchange involves at least a third protocol different
from each of the first and second protocols.
29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the third protocol is a facsimile protocol.
30. (New) A facsimile communication method, comprising transmitting an image, which
begins as a hardcopy, from a fax enabled device to a destination address entered at a
personal data assistant, wherein the transmitting step includes at least the step of
delivering, to the destination address entered at the personal data assistant, an email
message containing a faxed document as an attachment and containing, as part of the
email message body, custom text entered at the personal data assistant.

31. (New) A facsimile communication method, comprising transmitting an image, which begins as a hardcopy, from a fax enabled device to an email address, being the address of a mailbox on a computer network; which email address was entered at a personal data assistant in an alphanumeric syntax of the computer network, wherein the transmitting step includes at least the transmission of a document, which begins as a hardcopy, from a fax enabled device to a forwarding facility via facsimile protocol and the delivery of the document as an electronic file to the email address entered at a personal data assistant.

32. (New) A facsimile communication method, comprising the steps of:
transmitting an image, which begins as a hardcopy, from a fax enabled device to a server across a first communication network;
transmitting custom text and a destination address, each entered at a personal data assistant, to the server across the first communication network and during a single communication session on that first network;
creating at the server an email message containing the image as an attachment and, as part of the email message body, the custom text, and
transmitting the email message from the server to the destination address.

33. (New) A facsimile communication method, comprising the steps of:
- entering into a portable traveler interface portion, at any place remote from the physical location of a scanner of a fax function and remote from the physical location of a host interface portion, a plurality of destination addresses including at least one email address and at least one telephone number;
- communicating the plurality of destination addresses from the traveler interface portion to a host interface portion during a single communication session;
- determining at the host interface portion each destination address of the plurality to be one of either an email address or a telephone number;
- prompting by the host interface portion for placement of related hardcopy documents into the scanner of a fax function;
- after the prompting step, generating image data from the hardcopy documents; and
- communicating the image data from the fax function to at least one address entered into the traveler interface portion.
34. (New) The method of Claim 33, and, in response to the determining step, if the destination address entered at the traveler interface portion is a telephone number, initiating a connection to a first communication network by the host interface portion dialing the destination address entered at the traveler interface portion to open a communication line, and releasing the communication line for direct connection to the fax function.
35. (New) The method of Claim 34, and, in response to the determining step, if the destination address entered at the traveler interface portion is an email address, initiating a connection to a forwarding facility by the host interface portion dialing a pre-established address for accessing a server, to open a communication line between the host interface portion and the forwarding facility, and releasing the communication line for direct connection between the forwarding facility and the fax function.

36. (New) The method of Claim 33, and, in response to the determining step, if the destination address entered at the traveler interface portion is an email address, initiating a connection to a forwarding facility by the host interface portion dialing a pre-established address for accessing a server, to open a communication line between the host interface portion and the forwarding facility, and releasing the communication line for direct connection between the forwarding facility and the fax function.
37. (New) The method of Claim 33, and, in response to the determining step, dialing by the host interface of an appropriate telephone number.
38. (New) The method of claims 16, wherein the destination address is entered in a syntactically correct format as recognized by a computer network.
39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the destination address is stored in an address book of the personal data assistant.
40. (New) The method of claims 24, wherein the destination address is entered in a syntactically correct format as recognized by a computer network.
41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the destination address is stored in an address book of the personal data assistant.
42. (New) The method of claims 30, wherein the destination address is entered in a syntactically correct format as recognized by a computer network.
43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the destination address is stored in an address book of the personal data assistant.
44. (New) The method of claims 32, wherein the destination address is entered in a syntactically correct format as recognized by a computer network.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the destination address is stored in an address book of the personal data assistant.
46. (New) The method of claims 22, wherein each destination address of the plurality of destination addresses is entered either in a syntactically correct format as recognized by a telephone network or in a syntactically correct format as recognized by a computer network.
47. (New) The method of claims 33, wherein each destination address of the plurality of destination addresses is entered either in a syntactically correct format as recognized by a telephone network or in a syntactically correct format as recognized by a computer network.
48. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein said host portion is physically linked to but functionally separate from, the fax function.
49. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein said host portion is integrated with, but functionally separate from, the fax function.
50. (New) The system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of traveler portions, each of said traveler portions of said plurality being portable relative to said host portion and selectively communicating with said host portion.
51. (New) The system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality fax functions and a plurality of host portions, each host portion of said plurality of host portions being connected to one of said fax functions of said plurality of fax functions, said traveler portion selectively communicating with each of said host portions.

52. (New) The method of claim 24, and:
the receiving step occurs while the personal data assistant is located away from the physical location of the fax function; and
the step of conveying the received address to a host interface portion occurs while the host interface portion is linked to the fax function; and
prior to the step of conveying the image but after the step of conveying the received address to the host interface portion, including the step of prompting for the placement of a hardcopy into the scanner of the fax function.
53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the establishing step comprises the steps of:
recognizing by the host interface portion that a fax-to-email task has been received from the personal data assistant requiring delivery of a facsimile message to an email address on a computer network; and
dialing by the host interface portion of a pre-established address for accessing the forwarding facility.
54. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising the steps of:
receiving custom text at the personal data assistant while the personal data assistant is located away from the physical location of the fax function;
conveying the custom text from the personal data assistant to the host interface portion during the first data exchange; and
conveying the custom text from the host interface portion to the forwarding facility during the second data exchange; and
wherein the delivering step includes at least the steps of
creating at the forwarding facility an email message containing the image as an attachment and, as part of the email message body, the custom text, and
transmitting the email message from the forwarding facility to the destination address.

55. (New) The method of claim 27, and:
the receiving step occurs while the personal data assistant is located away from the physical location of the fax function; and
the step of conveying the received address to a host interface portion occurs while the host interface portion is linked to the fax function; and
prior to the step of conveying the image but after the step of conveying the received address to the host interface portion, including the step of prompting for the placement of a hardcopy into the scanner of the fax function.
56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the establishing step comprises the steps of:
recognizing by the host interface portion that a fax-to-email task has been received from the personal data assistant requiring delivery of a facsimile message to an email address on a computer network; and
dialing by the host interface portion of a pre-established address for accessing the forwarding facility.
57. (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising the steps of:
receiving custom text at the personal data assistant while the personal data assistant is located away from the physical location of the fax function;
conveying the custom text from the personal data assistant to the host interface portion during the first data exchange; and
conveying the custom text from the host interface portion to the forwarding facility during the second data exchange; and
wherein the delivering step includes at least the steps of
creating at the forwarding facility an email message containing the image as an attachment and, as part of the email message body, the custom text, and
transmitting the email message from the forwarding facility to the destination address.

58. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of:
after the step of generating image data, prompting by the host interface portion for placement of another hardcopy document into the scanner of the fax function; and
generating image data from the another hardcopy document.
59. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising the steps of:
repeating the prompting and generating steps for a number of times equal to the number of destination addresses in the plurality of destination addresses.
60. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the communicating step includes at least the steps of:
dialing by the host interface portion a pre-established address for accessing a forwarding facility and establishing a communication session with the forwarding facility;
conveying generated image data and at least one received destination addresses to the forwarding facility;
creating at the forwarding facility an email message containing the image as an attachment and, as part of the email message body, the custom text, and transmitting the email message from the forwarding facility to the destination address.
61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the communicating step further includes at least the steps of:
dialing by the host interface portion a destination address entered at the traveler interface portion to open a communication line; and
transmitting image data to the destination address.

62. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the communicating step includes at least the steps of:

dialing by the host interface portion a destination address entered at the traveler interface portion to open a communication line; and
transmitting image data to the destination address.

63. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the communicating step further includes at least the steps of:

passing by the host interface portion to the fax function a destination address entered at the traveler interface portion ;
dialing by the fax function the destination address entered at the traveler interface portion to open a communication line; and
transmitting image data to the destination address.

64. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the communicating step includes at least the steps of:

passing by the host interface portion to the fax function a destination address entered at the traveler interface portion ;
dialing by the fax function the destination address entered at the traveler interface portion to open a communication line; and
transmitting image data to the destination address.

65. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the traveler interface portion is a specially programmed personal data assistant.

66. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the host interface portion is associated with the fax function at which the hardcopy documents are scanned.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the host interface portion is connected to the fax function.

68. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein said host portion is physically linked to but functionally separate from, the fax function.
69. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein said host portion is integrated with, but functionally separate from, the fax function.